

# Navy Leaving War I Tempos For High-Rises in Arlington

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The Navy offices now housed in "temporary" World War I buildings on the Mall will be moved to a new \$94 million high-rise complex in Arlington, the developer said yesterday.

Paul Pomponio of Pomponio Brothers, a realty and construction company, told the Arlington County Board that "Main Navy" was the tenant for whom he was requesting

some relatively minor changes in the plans for the National Center complex at 2500 Jefferson Davis Highway.

He refused to comment further, saying he feared that the information is classified.

Navy spokesmen were unable to confirm his statement yesterday, but employees in the decaying buildings had heard rumors they would be moving to Crystal City, which is immediately north of the National Center complex.

The three buildings into which the Navy is apparently planning to move are the largest privately owned office buildings in Virginia and reportedly would house between 5,000 and 8,000 workers. One is already occupied by a lan-

guage school, and another is to be finished this summer.

Pomponio requested and received — in order to meet "lease commitments" — an increase in the floor area of the third building on the site, which is at the south end of the high-rise corridor on Route 1, about a mile from the Pentagon. He agreed to reduce the size of the fourth building which has not been started.

Also included in the complex will be two luxury apartment buildings, with a total of about 1,000 units, a motel with a convention hall and an inclosed shopping mall.

The Pomponio firm advertised the complex as a "self-contained city," but a Washington group reportedly has been complaining that some of

the lower-income Navy employees who now commute to the city from Prince Georges County would be unable to find moderate-priced housing in the Arlington area.

The 52-year-old Main Navy and Munitions Buildings on Constitution Avenue near 17th Street NW were ordered demolished by President Nixon in December. They house Chief of Naval Materiel, Air Systems, Ordnance, and Ship Systems offices.

Parts of the decaying "tempo," the last of numerous structures built during wartime, have been closed and some offices, with about 3,000 employees, already have been moved out because of the unsafe condition of the buildings.



—Star Photographer Paul Schmick

Main Navy offices are due to move into complex at right (foreground).

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